

The following claims are presented for examination:

1-19 . (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving, at a data processing system, a requirement from a prospective purchaser for a first chemical;

comparing, in said data processing system, said requirement to analyses of batches of said first chemical that are available for purchase from at least two different suppliers through said data processing system to identify a batch that satisfies said requirement, **wherein said analyses are obtained from a testing facility that tests samples of said batches in accordance with a uniform standard that is established for said first chemical**; and

outputting, from said data processing system, an indicium of said identified batch to said prospective purchaser.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

compiling statistics in said data processing system, said statistics comprising information about purchases of said first chemical and purchases of other chemicals facilitated by said data processing system; and

outputting said statistics to a statistics subscriber.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said identified batch of said first chemical is priced below a price at which said first chemical is normally sold.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said uniform standard is developed by owners/operators of said data processing system.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said indicium does not provide any information selected from the group consisting of a supplier of said identified batch and a brand name of said first chemical in said identified batch.

26. (new) The method of claim 20 comprising storing said analyses in an inventory database.

27. (new) The method of claim 26 comprising:

obtaining further analyses of further batches of said first chemical, wherein said further batches are analyzed in accordance with said uniform standard established for said first chemical; and

updating said inventory database by inputting said further analyses into said inventory database.

28. (new) The method of claim 26 comprising:

obtaining analyses of batches of a second chemical, wherein said batches are analyzed in accordance with a uniform standard established for said second chemical; and

updating said inventory database by inputting said analyses of batches of said second chemical into said inventory database.

29. (new) The method of claim 20 comprising storing said requirement in a requirements database.